

RF 128.1202USN 10/10/05

- 6 -

In the abstract:

On a separate page following the claims, please add the
5 following abstract:

-- Abstract

The method is for the pre-treatment of chips that are fed to a
sulphate cooking process. Through the addition of an acidic
fluid to the steam treatment step, a very high ionic
10 concentration of hydrogen ions is achieved. When the chips
are subsequently formed into a slurry with a preferably
sulphide-rich alkali cooking fluid, H_2S is formed locally in
the chips, which gives a yield-increasing effect for the
subsequent cooking step of 1-3%.--

15